Dear colleagues   
  
You would be aware of the work by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council to develop a strengthened architecture for the AQF. Papers outlining this work, including a paper on the proposed 10 level architecture,  are available on the AQF website at <www.aqf.edu.au>   
  
The AQF Council has commissioned research which will help validate and fine tune the new structural elements of the strengthened AQF. An on-line survey is now open that will gather data to empirically test the levels criteria, the qualification type descriptors and where Australia’s qualifications should be placed in a strengthened AQF.   
  
People who use the AQF to develop, accredit, deliver or assess Australian senior secondary, vocational education and training or higher education qualifications are being encouraged to take part in survey.   
  
It is critical that people involved with senior secondary certificates of education such as the HSC in NSW, and with VET qualifications recognised in the HSC, are part of this validation process. The placement of Senior Secondary Certificates in the new AQF levels framework is an open and hotly debated issue.   
  
If you haven't already, could I strongly encourage you to participate in the survey, both in relation to the HSC and for VET qualifications that are typically included within the HSC.   
  
The on-line survey takes about 15-20 minutes to complete for each qualification type you choose to focus on. When completing the survey about the HSC, I found it easier to think of a particular student who had completed the HSC, rather than the HSC itself. And it is important that the full range of HSC student achievements, from Life Skills attainment to students achieving all Band 6 standards in their HSC courses are represented in the collective sample.   
  
To participate please go to <www.aqf.edu.au> and you will be directed to the survey.   
  
Please share this information with your colleagues and professional networks.   
  
If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.   
  
Regards, ian   
  
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